

THE DEPARTMENTS.

AN IMPORTANT PENSION DECISION.

appointments—Promotions in the Census Office—
Annual Reports Presented—Internal Re-
view—Proposals Invited—Personal
Matters—Land Patents.

First Assistant Postmaster-General Patton left
the city Wednesday afternoon for New York.
Two hundred and thirty-five land patents and
twenty-six pension certificates were issued from

The receipts from internal revenue Wednesday were \$139,751.59, and from customs \$200,681.20. The national bank notes received for redemption amounted to \$152,000.

From the annual report of the Superintendent of the Money Order System for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1882, it appears that the business

The commission selected a site upon which to erect the public buildings in Louisville, Ky., as reported in favor of the selection of what is known as the Indiana Hotel property, situated at the corner of Fourth avenue and Chestnut streets.

An unusually large amount of second-class mail matter (periodicals, &c.), aggregating forty-four and one-half tons, was mailed from Boston on September 30th, last. No explanation is given by the postal authorities of the large increase of the

The Secretary of the Navy, in General Order 1, announces the adoption of Lieutenant Verry's system of night signals in the Navy, in place of the old lantern lights, which have been in use since 1807. New signals are added to the signal-book, and two auxiliary rules made.

Acting Secretary Fries, of the Treasury Department, says that none of the reports respecting the reorganization of the forces in the several custom-houses will be made public until they have been read and up-
and-up-on by the Board of Customs Commissioners. This far report of the Baltimore Customhouse is

The Surgeons-General of the Army and Navy have made a report to Secretary Lincoln recommending a plot of five acres in the south-west corner of the Hot Springs Mountain as the site for the proposed Army and Navy Hospital, for the construction of which an appropriation of \$10,000 is made at the last session of Congress.

A board of engineer officers is ordered to examine November 6th New York city to examine Captain Andrew N. Dimeffell, Corps of Engineers, United States Army, for promotion to major. The

Mr. Everett P. Wheeler, who was in the Supreme court Tuesday as a representative of the Civil Service Reform Association, did not make an argument Wednesday afternoon in the Chris political assessment case, but he did make a statement for the government, in which the constitutionality of the statute is maintained on somewhat broader ground than that taken by the Solicitor-General.

Commodore Robert W. Shufeldt was yesterday selected as president of the naval advisory board of new cruisers at the organization of the board at the Navy Department, and Lieut.nant Edward W. U. S. N., was selected as temporary secretary.

The Second Assistant Postmaster-General is now sending out advertisements inviting proposals for mail-carrier service upon 2,306 routes in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Michigan, and 619 miscellaneous routes scattered throughout the United States. The advertisements are being sent to the principal offices of routes and to persons applying for them. The proposals are returnable January 1.

A board of officers of the Corps of Engineers, consisting of Lieutenant Colonel David C. Houston, Major William E. Merrill, and Major William R. Blair, has been ordered to assemble at Cincinnati, Ohio, upon the call of the senior member, and as early a day as may be consistent with their other duties of the members, to examine and report upon the work of improvement completed, to be proposed and proposed for the Kentucky River, and to complete the same by the day of the completion of the same day, and the members of the board will return to their regular duty.

General B. F. Butler submitted in the United States Supreme Court Wednesday afternoon a motion to advance on the docket case No. 10,727, *Schreiber, appellant, vs. Walter B. Roberts et al.*, an appeal from the circuit court of the United States for the western district of Pennsylvania. This is a test case, involving the validity of certain water-patent held by Roberts et al. upon the procedure of the Erie Canal, and is well known by exploding torpedoes in Erie Canal. Some 6,000 pending suits in Pennsylvania and New York, based upon this patent, will be affected by the decision of the Supreme Court in this case.

Prior to the late war the government invested \$3,000 of Indian trust funds in coupons of the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railroad company. During the late war the government took possession of the road, and in consequence took the amount due on the coupons has never been paid. The company has been rechartered, and the trial was to have been at Nashville on the 23d instant. Last week several attorneys for the government left here for that city. Wednesday solicitor Raynor, of the Treasury department, received a telegram from which he learned that the trial has not yet begun, but that the case that would be tried is the same.

The following promotions have been made in the Census office. George W. Richards, of Ohio, appointed chief clerk at \$2,000, by promotion from \$1,800. From \$1,400 to \$1,800—Edwin B. Smith, of Kansas. From \$1,400 to \$1,600—John H. Clear, Md.; Orlando C. Keachman, D. C. and Frank R. Williams, of Ohio. From \$1,600 to \$1,800—H. E. French, of Ohio, and R. H. Egan, D. C. From \$1,800 to \$2,000—J. H. Egan, D. C.

1900—James F. Bangs, D. C.; Geo. S. Boudinot, C. C.; Charles A. Davis, S. C.; Wm. W. Herron, D. C.; W. Harry Olcott, D. C.; Albert W. Roome, D. C.; Armin E. Sherman, W. Va.; Thomas J. Walker, D. C.; Wm. M. McHenry, Mass.; From 1900 to 1920—John L. Brown, N. Y.; John H. Higgins, D. C.; Wm. M. Sayre, N. Y.; Chas. W. Merritt, Mass.; Miss Sarah V. Brownell, Vt.; Miss Annie F. Hoyt, Conn.; Mrs. Minnie A. Reed, Mass.; E. E. Felt, Mass.; and W. H. Bennett, N. Y.; From 1920 to 1940—Wm. C. Harbaugh, Md.; and Joseph M. Steyer, W. Va.; From 1940 to 1950—Edward N. Brown, N. Y.; and

Kirk L. Wood, D.C. From \$90 to \$120—John
 McKinney, D. C., and Miss Lucy H. Upon, D.
 C. From \$100 to \$120—Mrs. Madeline E. Bal-
 con, D. C. From \$100 to \$120—Miss Florence
 Ober, D. C. Miss Cornelia Scott, N. Y.; Miss Mary
 Terry, Maine, and Miss Catharine J. Van Natte,
 Y. From \$75 to \$80—Miss D. L. C. Condon,
 N. Y.; William J. Foley, D. C.; Miss Irone S. Fuller,
 D. C.; Mrs. M. J. H. H. H. H. H. H. H. H. H. H.
 Herbert, D. C.; Miss Mary A. Goff, D. C.; Miss Mary
 Hume, D. C.; George L. Harrington, Ohio, and
 Ann Hunt, D. C.

In the case of the application for pension of the
 widow and children of Private Beverly Danzger

all, alleged to have been killed in the war of the rebellion, the Commissioner of Pensions rejected application, on the ground that the record failed to show, and the applicant was unable to prove the fact, date, or cause of the soldier's death. The roll of the company to which the soldier belonged showed that he was wounded in action on October 27, 1864, and sent to the hospital, and that he was honorably discharged, and continued in service until the 25th of September, 1865. An appeal was taken from this decision to the Secretary of the Interior. Acting Secretary Alyn has just delivered an opinion, reversing

tion to Dengerfield's belief. This opinion, which will be of interest to a large class of applicants for pensions, reveals all the circumstances of the case, and says: "Referring to the case cited in your report, in which it was held by the Secretary of the Interior that the death of a soldier in the hands of the enemy was presumed to entitle his widow to pension, I have to state that cases arise in which it is impossible to obtain positive proof of the soldier's death, but the presumption of his death from causes connected with his service is so strong as to justify the allowance of a pension to his widow. In such cases, the presumption is that the soldier died from the causes connected with his service, and the widow is entitled to pension on that basis."

When a soldier is reported missing in action under circumstances which lead to the belief that he was killed in the battle, a claim for pension on his account may properly be made on the ground that he died for his country and all the circumstances of the case lead to the belief that he died from a disease contracted while in captivity, it would be proper for the execution of the pension law, to act upon the presumption of his death. • • • • • (10) It is not heard from a person who has been a soldier not heard from for seven years is dead may properly be accepted under the pension law; and when last heard from a soldier was superior

both serious disease contraindications of injury. As a result of the line of duty, it may be presumed that his death occurred from such cause if there is nothing in the circumstances of the case to rebut such presumption."